

REMARKS

Claims 1 though 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) by Hirohama (U.S. Patent No. 5,797,125). Applicant has cancelled claims 1, 2, 4, and 7-9, and 13-15. Applicant has amended claims 3, 5, 6 and 10-12. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and below remarks.

In Pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action, claims 3 and 10 were rejected under Section 102(b) by Hirohama. Amended claims 3 and 10 specifically recite “a class selector selecting a class corresponding to a particular language” and a storage medium storing voice data “in a plurality of languages.” Applicant respectfully submits that these features of the present invention are neither taught or suggested by the cited references.

In Hirohama, each terminal unit only contains one particular language. For example, terminal unit 4A in Hirohama only supports the Japanese language, while terminal unit 4B only supports the English language (See Hirohama column 3, lines 43-52; Figure 1). Furthermore, the language information is recorded in the terminal unit at the control center and is not contained in a detachable storage medium as further required by independent claims 3 and 10. (See Hirohama column 3, lines 43-52; Figure 3). In contrast, in Applicant’s claimed invention, a storage medium stores multiple languages that can be selected by the class selector. Preloading at the control station a unit with a particular language as taught by Hirohama at column 3, lines 43-52 is very different from having multilingual voice message data accessible to the portable type voice producer using a detachable storage medium.

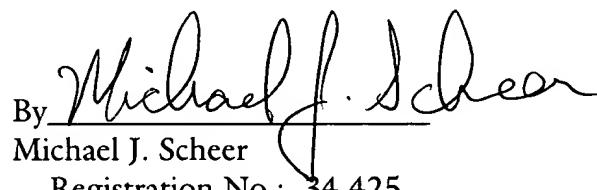
Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 3 and 10 on the basis of Hirohama is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 5-6 and 11-12 are dependent on and include all of the limitations of base claims 3 and 10. Therefore, all of the above arguments regarding independent claims 3 and 10 apply equally to dependent claims 5-6 and 11-12. Withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 5-6 and 11-12 on the basis of Hirohama is therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Dated: April 15, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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